



# Stoke Mandeville Combined School

*Caring, Inspiring and Achieving Together*

## *Weekly Update Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April*

### **Honeycomb Festival**

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April a small group of girls participated in the Honeycomb Dance Festival at Waterside Theatre. The girls gave a brilliant performance in front of a very large audience and should be very proud of themselves for all of their hard work.

They all had a great time and gave it their all, representing the school impeccably and it was an honour to watch them perform.

A huge thank you to all the girls for giving up time during their Easter holidays to perform, as well as their dance teacher from ZKT Dance, Sophie, for coming along to rehearse with the girls on the day! Thank you also to Miss Telfer and Miss Cooke for accompanying the girls at this event on behalf of the school.



### **Parent Forum**

Please note that next Friday's Parent Forum has been postponed until Mrs Stewart's return. We will be in touch with class parent representatives with a new date in due course.

### **Allotment Update**

Lots of progress has been made on the school allotment. We now have a resident scarecrow, the children have been busy planting potatoes and helping to build a bean frame as well as planting the beans.



We have onions growing and they have been helping to sand down the benches ready for a new coat of paint.



As well as all of this activity we have had some visitors to the allotment, captured by our wildlife camera!

## External Provider Clubs

Please note that clubs with our external providers will recommence next week as follows:

Date	Club	Sign Up
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Handball Club	Email School Office to sign your child up
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	Premier Gymnastics	<a href="#">Click here</a> to sign your child up
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	ZKT Dance	Email School Office to sign your child up

Please note there will be no netball on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April as there is a netball match taking place at another school.

## Nut-Free School

Please can we remind parents that we are a 'nut-free school' and as such children must not bring in snacks or packed lunches with products containing nut ingredients e.g. Nutella, Kinder Bueno, granola bars etc. We have a number of children with severe nut allergies and any products found will be removed by staff for the safety of other children.



## Clubs – Payment Reminder

If you have signed your child up to take part in a sports club this term (ZKT Dance, Premier Gymnastics, Handball), please ensure that you have paid for this on School Gateway ahead of your child's first session next week.

## New ParentCarerChat Text Service – Now Live!

Need quick advice about your child's health or wellbeing? You can now text the Buckinghamshire Healthcare School Nursing Team directly for support.



ParentCarerChat: 07312 263175



Monday–Friday, 9am–4pm

We can help with things like:

- Behaviour or emotional worries
- Healthy eating
- Puberty questions
- Toileting or sleep concerns

...and more.

Your message goes straight to a real person, not AI. If you've been asked to complete toileting or sleep charts, diaries or questionnaires, please return them as soon as you can so they can start the right support quickly. Follow us on Instagram for tips and updates: @bucks\_childrenandyoungpeople

## Late Sign Ins

Please can we remind parents that all children need to be signed in by a parent or carer at the School Office if they are coming into school late or returning from an appointment during the school day.

## Clothing collection

Thank you to everyone who donated clothing and other items to our collection on Tuesday morning. We will let you know later in the term how much was raised by this collection for The Friends of SMCS.



## One Way System

Please can we remind parents at the end of the school day to only enter through the front pedestrian gates and not through the rear car park gates. In order to safeguard our pupils we need to ensure that the rear playground gates are kept shut until 3.20pm when children are brought out by their class teacher.

## Premier Gymnastics

We have a few places remaining for our Gymnastics Club with Premier Education on Tuesdays after school. If your child is in Years 2 to 4 and would like to join this club then please head to <https://www.premier-education.com/parents/venue/courses/869-948730/?back=1&location=stoke%20mandeville> to reserve your place. The club is charged at £4 per lesson across 10 sessions (£40 for the summer term).



## St George's Day – Women in History Fayre

The event, taking place on **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April** in Aylesbury Town Centre across Friars Square Shopping Centre, Market Square and the Kings Head, will be a day filled with historical fun, workshops, and activities. The highlights include historic walkabout characters, St George on horseback, a stilt-walking dragon, and performances by Unbound Theatre, 'Women of the War' and Morris dancers, followed by the Uniformed Parade at 4pm.

*All to be enjoyed by the whole family for free!*

The event accessibility information is available here: <https://bit.ly/StGAccessibility>. A visual story helps those who wish to know more about Aylesbury Town Council's event and what to expect. Click here to view the written visual story to assist those who may be overwhelmed by the event: <https://bit.ly/StGWrittenVisualStory>. View the visual story video here: <https://bit.ly/StGVisualStory>



## After School Club

As a reminder to parents of children who attend ASC, the final collection time is **5.20pm** after which time late pickups are charged at £5 per child for the first 15 minutes and then £5 per child per 15 minutes thereafter. If there is any reason why you are running late to collect your child then please dial the school number 01296 612371 and select Option 4 to speak to an ASC Playworker.

### **Chess sets please**

We are in need of chess sets for our new Friday Lunchtime Chess Club! If you have a complete chess set that you would be willing to donate to the school then please bring this to the School Office where it will be gratefully received.

### **Earrings**

Please can we remind parents that only plain studded earrings may be worn in school. Hooped earrings are not permitted and children will be asked to remove these for safety reasons if they are worn to school.

### **Stationery Equipment – Year 6**

As a reminder this year we have asked Year 6 to take responsibility for their stationery in order to prepare them for secondary school.

We have provided each child with a pencil case, glue stick, blue pen, whiteboard pen, white board rubber, rubber, pencil, purple pen and scissors. If these items are lost, damaged or run out, items will need to be purchased from the School Office.

Item	Cost
Handwriting pen	50p
Rubber	10p
Pencil	20p
Glue stick	£1
Pencil case	£1
Purple pen	30p
Whiteboard rubbers	45p
Whiteboard pen	30p

### **Hot Chocolate's Joke of the Week**

Every week we bring you the very finest jokes and riddles straight from the Meeting Room to your inboxes! Mrs Stewart will be choosing her favourite joke shared by children during Hot Chocolate Friday so please do help your child by coming up with a (child-friendly!) funny joke for Fridays! The entries from last week and this week are...



#### **How do bees get to school?**

On the school buzz

*Samuel in Year 1*

#### **Why are barbers always on time?**

Because they do lots of short cuts

*David in Year 5*

#### **Where do snow leopards sleep?**

Mount Ever-Rest

*Rupert in Year 3*

### **Awards This Week**

Value Award: Eloise in Year 5

Tidy Award: Year 3

## **Communications Home**

Whole school: Aiming High

Whole school: Tempest – Class and Group Photographs

Whole school: IMPORTANT Message from Chair of Governors

Years 2 to 4: FEW PLACES REMAINING – Premier Gymnastics – Summer 2026

Year 4: Year 4 – PE This Week

Year 6 Individuals: PAYMENT OVERDUE River Dart 2026 – Payment 4

Dance Club: REMINDER – No Dance Today

Gymnastics Club: PAYMENT SET UP Premier Gymnastics – Summer Term 2026

Netball Club: Netball Club Cancelled – Mon 20 Apr

Netball Club: Netball Club – Today

Netball Club and Football Club: Netball and Football Kits

Netball Individuals: SMCS Netball vs Halton Community Combined School (Away)

Honeycomb Dancers: Honeycomb Costumes

## **Payments/Consent Forms Available on School Gateway**

**MAC Users:** MAC 2025/26

**ASC Users:** ASC 2025/26

**Year 3 and 4:** Y3 & Y4 Verulamium Trip (*deadline 01/05/2026*)

**Year 6 Residential:** River Dart 2026 – Payment 4 (*deadline 27/03/2026*)

**Dance Club:** ZKT Street Dance – Summer 2026 (*deadline 02/04/2026*)

**Gymnastics Club:** Premier Gymnastics – Summer Term 2026 (*deadline 21/04/2026*)

## **Dates for the Diary** (New dates or times are written in RED)

Date	Time	Event
Mon 20 Apr	3.30pm	Handball Club starts
Mon 20 Apr		No Netball Club
Mon 20 Apr		Netball Match at Halton School
Tue 21 Apr	3.30pm	Premier Gymnastics Club starts
Wed 22 Apr	3.30pm	ZKT Dance Club starts
Fri 24 Apr		Parent Forum POSTPONED
Fri 24 Apr		Park Away Day
Mon 4 May		Bank Holiday Monday
Fri 8 May		Signing Choir to Fremantle Care Home ( <i>signed up children only</i> )

## **Class Updates**

We know how much you enjoy finding out what the children have been learning in our Weekly Updates. You can find this information by selecting the link below to your child's class.

[Reception](#)

[Year 1](#)

[Year 2](#)

[Year 3](#)

[Year 4](#)

[Year 5](#)

[Year 6](#)

## **School Office**

**Opening hours:** 8am to 3.40pm Monday to Friday

**Email:** [office@smcs.org.uk](mailto:office@smcs.org.uk)

**Telephone:** 01296 612371



*Please ensure all emails are sent to the School Office and not via School Gateway or classroom apps such as Seesaw or Google Classroom as these are not monitored and will not be responded to. Please note that we have a 48 hour response policy to all emails and this may be extended to 5 days during particularly busy times. For all urgent queries please telephone the School Office.*